

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 FAA-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /149 W

----- 102063

R 031416 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2118

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XW, ECON, ETRN

SUBJ: EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

1. ON APRIL 30 AMBASSADOR CARTER, ACCOMPANIED BY AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE AND JIM GREENE, CALLED ON CHARLES MAINA, SEC GEN OF EAC, IN ARUSHA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY AMBASSADOR AS TO WHETHER

CURRENT INABILITY OF EAST AFRICAN AUTHORITY TO MEET WAS CAUSING OPERATING PROBLEMS FOR EAC, MAINA REPLIED THAT TO CONTRARY EAC WAS NOW ABLE TO ACT MORE PROMPTLY IN SOME INSTANCES. FORMERLY HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR FAIRLY INFREQUENT MEETINGS OF AUTHORITY BEFORE HE COULD SUBMIT ANY ITEMS FOR DECISION. NOW EACH ITEM COULD BE REFERRED TO THREE CAPITALS AS SOON AS READY, AND RESPONSES WERE GENERALLY REASONABLY PROMPT. MOREOVER, NUMBER OF ITEMS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE WHICH FORMERLY INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF AUTHORITY MEETINGS WERE NOW DECIDED BY EAC OFFICIALS ON BASIS GENERAL POLICIES AGREED TO BE THREE CAPITALS. WHILE EAC COULD CONTINUE

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TO FUNCTION ALONG PRESENT LINES, LACK OF DIRECT COMMUNICATION AT TOP DID MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EXPAND OR ACCELERATE COMMUNITY'S ACTIVITIES.

3. MAICA REGRETTED PRESENT CONFRONTATION OF UGANDA AND TANZANIA RESULTING FROM DISAPPEARANCE OF SEVEN TANZANIANS WHO WENT TO KAMPALA TO APPLY FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH EA P AND T CORPORATION AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST BY GOT OF 45 - 50 UGANDAN EMPLOYEES OF EAST AFRICAN HARBORS IN DAR. THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL MATTER, HOWEVER. EVEN THOUGH TANZANIANS MIGHT NOT WANT TO WORK IN UGANDA AND UGANDANS IN TANZANIA, WHICH WOULD BE REGRETTABLE, ALL COMMON SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS WOULD CONZINUE TO OPERATE.

4. IN COMMENTING ON QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WAS DISTURBED AT RECENT DECISION OF THREE PARTNER STATES TO DECENTRALIZE INCOME TAX COLLECTION WHICH PREVIOUSLY HANDLED BY EAC, MAINA SAID HE NOT PERSONALLY IN FAVOR OF ANY ACTION WHICH DETRACTED FROM SOLID KOUNDATION OF COMMUNITY. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN, HOWEVER, BY THREE GOVERNMENTS INDEPENDENTWY WITHOUTIOEFERENCE TO EAC OR IN FACT GIVING EAC OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT ITS VIEWS ON BASIS EAC WAS INTERESTED PARTY AND THUS WOULD NOT BE OBJECTIVE. DECISION, THEREFORE, WAS NOT REJECTION OF ANY EAC INITIATIVE.

5. RE EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS MAINA SAID SITUATION HAD IMPROVED IN SOME WAYS BUT NOT IN OTHERS FROM WHAT IT WAS YEAR AGO. MAIN ADVANCES WERE THAT EAA HOUSE WAS BEING PUTHN ORDER, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN AIRLINE HAD IMPROVED, BUSINESS HAD INCREASED AND ORGANIZATION WAS PAYING OFF SOME OF ITS DEBTS. ON NEGATIVE SIDE ORGANIZATION NEEDED SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL INPUT OF CAPITAL FROM THREE PARTNER STATES WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING. MAINA WAS HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT REPGTT WHICH EASTERN AIRLINES OFFICIALS WERE PREPARING ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN OPERATIONS OF EAA AND FUTURE CASH FLOWS WOULD PAVE WAY FOR THREE COUNTRIES TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INPUT.

6. MAINA WAS RATHER HAZY AS TO WHETHER NEW SECGEN WOULD BE CHOSEN AT COMPLETION OF HIS TOUR IN JUNE 1974. BASIC
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AGREEMENT DID NOT CALL FOR ROTATION OF POSITION AMONG THREE

MEMBER STATES, ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE THIS HAD BEEN THE CASE. FIRST SECGEN OMARI WAS TANZANIAN WHO DID NOT WISH TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE. SECOND SECGEN BIGIRIVENKYA WAS UGANDAN WHO WANTED STAY ON BUT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THREE STATES. MAINA HIMSELF HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WISHED TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM BUT WOULD MAKE HIS DESIRES KNOWN IN DUE COURSE.

7. COMMENT: UNDERSTANDABLY MAINA DESIROUS OF PUTTING EAC IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. TO ITS CREDIT COMMUNITY IS CONTINUING TO OPERATE WITH SOME EFFECTIVENESS, BUT IT IS ESSENTIALLY A HOLDING ACTION. (THIS CONCLUSION CONFIRMED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH TANZANIAN MINISTER FMR EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS KASSUM.) FUTURE OF EAC CANNOT BE PROMISING AS LONG AS GOVERNMENTS OF TWO OF THREE PARTNERS ARE BARELY ON TALKING TERMS.
MCILVAINE

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